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SIX-YEAR PLAN TO DEVELOP BACKWARD AREAS

The Six-Year Plan for the Development and the Economic Reformation of Poland will undertake the redistribution of productive strength to eliminate the great disproportion in the levels of the economic and cultural life of the individual areas. The development of the backward and neglected areas will be one of its chief tasks.

The uneven distribution of natural resources and transportation facilities retards economic development of the various areas and is one of the reasons for the economic disparity.

During the period between wars, nothing was done in Poland to equalize the existing disparities. These were further accentuated by war devastation and by the acquisition of the western territories, which for several centuries had formed an integral part of a foreign economic structure.

For an understanding of the magnitude of the task imposed by the Six-Year Plan, the disparities mentioned above can be observed in the light of available statistical data.

The first factor which may throw light on the problem is the distribution of population. According to 1 January 1948 data, the percentage of area and population which the various wojewodztwo contribute to the national totals given below:

<u>Wojewodztwo</u>	<u>Percent of Total Natl Area</u>	<u>Percent of Total Natl Pop</u>
Lublin	8.9	7.6
Bialystok	7.5	4.0
Olstyn	6.2	2.2
Szczecin	9.8	3.7
Poznan	12.6	10.5

Marked disparity in the opposite direction is shown in Slask Wojewodztwo with 4.9 percent of the national territory and 12.7 percent of the national population.

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The resettling processes of 1948 and the first part of 1949 undoubtedly changed the above picture somewhat in the western wojewodztwos.

Smaller changes took place during this period in the degree of urbanization of the various regions of the country. Comparative figures of urban and rural populations show the differences existing between the various wojewodztwos. On 1 January 1948, according to the census of population, urban population was 33.8 percent of the total population. Considerable variation from this national average is shown on the downward side in the following wojewodztwos: Kielce, 21.9 percent urban population, Lublin 15.9 percent, Bialystok 19.4 percent, Olsztyn 29.1 percent, Krakow 22.5 percent, and Rzeszow 17.2 percent.

Warsaw Wojewodztwo (17.8 percent) and Lodz Wojewodztwo (21.5 percent) may be added to this list with the comment, however, that the cities of Warsaw and Lodz with their large concentration of population (12.4 percent of the total national urban population) are not included in the percentages given for the wojewodztwos and, obviously, would greatly affect the figures for these two wojewodztwos.

Very marked also are deviations in the opposite direction. The percentage of urban population in Gdansk Wojewodztwo is 55.3 percent, Pomorze 40.6 percent, Szczecin 43.6 percent, Poznan 37.2 percent, Wroclaw 45.3 percent, and Slask 44.0 percent.

The density of population and the degree of urbanization in each separate region is closely correlated with its economic development and with the distribution of productive capacity. The percentage of population which each wojewodztwo contributes to the national total and the percentage of its share of the total national industrial employment is given below:

<u>Wojewodztwo</u>	<u>Percent of Total Natl Pop</u>	<u>Percent of Total Natl Employment in Industry and Mining</u>
Kielce	7.3	4.9
Lublin	7.6	1.9
Bialystok	4.0	0.7
Olsztyn	2.2	0.8
Poznan	10.5	8.6
Krakow	9.0	7.2
Rzeszow	5.9	2.5

The corresponding figures for the largest and strongest economic centers are:

Warsaw City	2.4	5.3
Lodz City	1.8	7.8
Wroclaw Wojewodztwo	7.4	12.0
Slask Wojewodztwo	12.7	28.9

As in the case of population and employment, the lack of development appears consistently in a distinct group of wojewodztwos in almost all spheres of activity. It is seen in the sphere of commodity turnover -- especially in socialized trade -- and in the sphere of health, if judged on the basis of the number of doctors and hospital beds.

In culture and education, however, a different picture is presented. In some of the wojewodztwos -- for instance Lublin, Bialystok and Olsztyn -- the percentage of their share of the national total of elementary schools is greater than the percentage of population which they contribute to the national total.

Disproportions in other spheres are reduced and finally eliminated as the Six-Year Plan progresses. -- By Leopold Gluck.

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